

NEBRASKA STATE QUARTER DESIGN

The U.S. Commemorative Quarter Design Program was launched by the U.S. Mint in 1999, and will run through 2008. The program allows five states each year to have a quarter design issued on behalf of each state. Some 25 states will have their quarters minted by the end of this calendar year, with at least 500 million quarters released with each new design. The quarters will circulate for at least 30 years.

The states release their quarters in order in which they joined the union. Nebraska, as the 37th state, joined the union in March, 1867. The Nebraska quarter will be launched in March, 2006.

In preparation, the Nebraska Legislature designated Secretary of State John Gale as Chairman of the Quarter Design Committee, together with seven other members: Tom Bassett and Virgil Marshal, appointed by the Governor, Gordon Howard and Dr. Michael Schuyler, appointed by the Nebraska Historical Society; Jodi Rave appointed by the Nebraska Humanities Council; and Normal Geske and Roger Bruhn, appointed by the Nebraska Arts Council.

According to Secretary Gale, "The design is selected by each state to highlight its' history, landmark features, legendary persons, and its' uniqueness. The object is to help educate the general public about each of the states and their history." Secretary of State Gale added, "This is an opportunity for all Nebraskans to show pride in their state by submitting a design."

The committee has certain rules it needs to follow when considering a design, as follows:

- 1) Suitable subject matter for designs include state landmarks (natural and man-made), landscapes, historically significant buildings, symbols of state resources or industries, official state flora and fauna, state icons (e.g., Texas Lone Star, Wyoming bronco, etc.), and outlines of the state.
- 2) State flags and state seals are not considered suitable for designs.
- 3) Consistent with the authorizing legislation, the states are encouraged to submit designs that promote the diffusion of knowledge among the youth of the United States about the state, its history and geography, and the rich diversity of our national heritage.
- 4) Priority consideration will be given to designs that are enduring representations of the state.

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- 5) Inappropriate design concepts include, but are not limited to logos or depictions of specific commercial, private, educational, civic, religious, sports, or other organizations whose membership or ownership is not universal.

To request a design form packet contact Sharon Hambek in the Secretary of State's office at 402-471-6044 or at shambek@nol.org. For more information about the Nebraska Quarter Design Program or to print the form for submitting your a design visit the Nebraska Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.ne.us. If you would like to learn about other states and their programs, visit the U.S. mint website at www.usmint.gov.

The last day to submit designs will be May 1, 2004! Let the drafting begin!